BAMBOO - A SYNOPSIS

This is a Display Division exhibit that is organized thematically.

Treatment and Importance: The theme and limits are well defined. The theme is organized to tell a comprehensive and easy-to-follow story. Within the limits of the available philatelic material and the limits of the collateral material that will physically fit within an exhibit frame, a fairly comprehensive and well-organized story is presented. Within these limits, the exhibit is reasonably well-balanced.

Due to the nature of the subject matter, the exhibit is not complete. For example, although Ethiopia has over 1 million hectares of bamboo, the largest in all of Africa and 67% of Africa's bamboo area and 7% of the world's total, nothing philatelic exists other than one set of stamps showing bamboo handicrafts. The two dominant Ethiopian species are not cultivated in N. America. A similar situation exists in S. America where millions of hectares of Guadua sp. bamboos are cultivated and have been used by native peoples since pre-Columbian times. But only one stamp shows this important bamboo.

The theme is of increasing environmental and economic importance even if it is not well understood or appreciated in the West.

Philatelic and Related Knowledge: All philatelic and collateral items directly advance the story line or theme. A wide variety of philatelic items are used including recent New Year Greeting and Lottery postal cards issued by the Peoples Republic of China (PRC), French 'Pret a Poster' or PAP envelopes, Japanese ECHO cards, in addition to the usual appropriate philatelic material found in thematic exhibits. The knowledgeable observer should have no trouble differentiating between modern postal cards and the conventional picture post card. A high degree of knowledge is evidenced by the material chosen and the brief but appropriate comments.

This exhibit takes advantage of the 'looser restrictions" of Display Division to include a variety of philatelic and collateral material that directly advances the story line or theme.

Personal Study & Research: The exhibitor has grown 8 species of tropical bamboos for the past 20 years and has authored an article on philately and bamboo for the journal of the American Bamboo Society.

Condition and Rarity: Since most of the philatelic and collateral material is modern, condition is excellent. A variety of elusive or 'difficult to acquire' and unusual items are present. You will not find any major rarities since none exist.

Presentation: As nice as a clump of bamboo on a summer day.

References: No philatelic references exist on the theme other than an APS slide show.

A Wikipedia article on bamboo should provide a good foundation on bamboo basics.

For detailed information, the best general reference is:

The Book of Bamboo
David Farrelly
Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1984
ISBN 0-87156-824-1 or 0-87156-825-X (pbk)